JAN 2 4 7005

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

re application of: Kikuchi et al.

Application No. 10/635,661

Filed: August 5, 2003 Confirmation No. 8882

For: RETICLE MANIPULATORS AND

RELATED METHODS FOR CONVEYING THIN, CIRCULAR RETICLES AS USED

IN CHARGED-PARTICLE-BEAM

MICROLITHOGRAPHY

Examiner: Della J. Rutledge

Art Unit: 2851

Attorney Reference No. 4641-65956-01

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. BOX 1450 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper and the documents referred to as being attached or enclosed herewith are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Attorney for Applicant(s)

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Date Mailed January 21, 2005

AMENDMENT AND REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

This paper is submitted in reply to the Office action dated October 5, 2004. Please amend the subject application as follows:

Amendments to the Abstract begin on page 2.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 3.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 4.

Remarks begin on page 5.